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U.S. assails CIA listing in France

Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—The State Department yesterday labeled "contemptible and inflammatory" a French publication's listing of persons it said were agents of the Central Intelligence Agency at the United States Embassy in Paris.

Robert Funseth, a State Department spokesman, said, without elaborating, that "we are in touch with the French government" on the episode. Privately U.S. officials said the exchanges began even before publication of the leftist newspaper *Liberation*.

Without confirming the accuracy of the list of more than a score of names, a CIA spokesman said the agency was "naturally concerned." He expressed hope that "no Americans participated in this effort abroad against their fellow citizens."

"In general," Mr. Funseth said, "experience has shown that the printing of such lists is extremely irresponsible and can incite lunatics and fanatics to attack individual diplomats."

"So we view this kind of publishing venture as contemptible and inflammatory."

Neither agency directly mentioned Richard Welch, the second ranking diplomat in the U.S. Embassy in Athens, who was assassinated after a Greek newspaper identified him as the CIA station chief there.

For years CIA members attached to embassies abroad have been listed frequently in public records with obviously incomplete biographical sketches. The so-called thin cover has been widely regarded as a rough guide to CIA identities, although it is not always an accurate one. Changes in that system are now regarded as certain.